



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.2413 | FAX (517) 373.5144  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/allen/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/allen/)

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Contact: Jamie Callahan  
(866) 525-5637

## Allen Observes April as Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month

*Commerce and Labor Committee holds discussion on how residents can help*

LANSING – The Senate Commerce and Labor Committee Tuesday discussed organ and tissue donation, Chairman Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, announced.

“Michigan annually observes April as Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month,” Allen said. “The gift of life provides hundreds of patients every year with the chance to live a longer life due to the generous gift of another. I hope the committee discussion helped share important information as to how everyone can play a role in organ and tissue donation.”

The Commerce and Labor committee took testimony on Senate Bill 99, a bill to create a donor organ leave time program for state employees. In addition, testimony taken during the committee meeting noted that Michigan has observed April as Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month in cooperation with the Gift of Life Organization for more than a decade.

The Gift of Life Organization is Michigan’s only certified full-service organ recovery organization. The organization serves as an intermediary to provide educational resources about organ donation for donors, recipients, physicians and hospital staff.

In 2002, 226 Michigan organ donors saved or enhanced the lives of 553 residents, according to the Gift of Life Organization, representing a three percent increase over 2001. Tissue donations also increased in 2002 by 3 percent, with 743 tissue donations reported. Residents who are interested in becoming organ donors may join the Gift of Life Donor Registry through the Secretary of State website at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos). Nearly 650,000 names of Michigan residents are on the current registry. For more information on organ donation, please contact the Gift of Life Organization by calling 1-800-482-4881.